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if perforated and containing deep cavities, would soon have absorbed her atmosphere, supposing she ever had one.

The author's letter concludes with some remarks on Euler's formula for the rolling pendulum, from which the perfect accuracy of Laplace's theorems for the length of the convertible pendulum rolling on equal cylinders may be inferred, without any limitation of their magnitude, or of the form of the pendulum. It also affords the proper correction for the arc of vibration.

On the Anomaly in the Variation of the Magnetic Needle as observed on Ship-board. By William Scoresby, jun. Esq. Communicated by the Right Hon. Sir Joseph Banks, Bart. G.C.B. P.R.S. Read February 4, 1819. [Phil. Trans. 1819, p. 96.]

The anomalies in magnetic observations on ship-board were usually attributed to imperfections of the azimuth compass, till Capt. Flinders suggested the influence of the iron used in the construction of the ship as their probable source,—a suggestion since confirmed and illustrated by Mr. Bain.

In this paper, Mr. Scoresby has given a table of the selected results of his observations relating to this subject, conducted on the coast of Spitzbergen, in the years 1815 and 1817. To these he has added some general inferences, deduced at the time of observation, and observes, that the anomaly of attraction is probably the greatest in men-of-war, and ships containing large quantities of iron, though it also exists to a considerable extent in merchantmen where iron forms no part of the cargo, especially in high latitudes where the dip of the needle is great.

On the Genus Ocythoë; being an Extract of a Letter from Thomas Say, Esq. of Philadelphia, to William Elford Leach, M.D. F.R.S. Read February 4, 1819. [Phil. Trans. 1819, p. 107.]

After describing a genus of Ocythoë, which the author regards as new, he observes that the Ocythoë offers a deviation from the ordinary laws which apply to the testaceous Mollusca, inasmuch as it resides only in the last volution of the shell; and as the shell does not fit the body, it appears probable that it was not made for it, more especially as there is no attachment between the shell and any part of the body. The shells that approach nearest to Argonauta are of that order: this supposition, however, is not corroborated by the habits of the animal; for all hitherto discovered of that order swim to the surface; and having no other organs of locomotion than fins, cannot glide upon the bottom. We must, therefore, suppose this to have been the habit of the animal; and yet it is hardly admissible that in that case it should have eluded the observation of voyagers, when the shell has often been found occupied by the parasite.